

INFORMATION REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Austria/USGR

SUBJECT Russians Survey Cellars in Lower Austria

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1. On 4 December 1950 the Soviet Commander of Enzersdorf directed the Austrian Gendarmerie Commander of Enzersdorf to make a comprehensive survey of large cellars throughout this district. The Russian officer specified that this survey include sketches carefully drawn to scale, an estimate of the cubic capacity, description of the floor space, lighting and ventilation equipment. The Soviet officer also warned the Austrian police official to regard this order as strictly secret.
2. On 8 December 1950 the Austrian Gendarmerie Commander in Enzersdorf advised the Soviet Commander for this district that during his recent inspection tour of cellars in Enzersdorf and its environs a number of Austrians had inquired as to why he was making this survey. Whereupon the Soviet officer promptly informed the Gendarmerie official that in the future he should say that he is compiling data on facilities available for storing food in the Enzersdorf area.
3. According to another report, on 7 December 1950 a Soviet officer on the staff of the Soviet Komariatura in Baden bei Wien directed an Austrian magistrate in Baden to have the entrances to a number of air raid shelters in Baden and Woodling opened immediately. This Soviet officer alleged that the Soviets are searching for some object which they believe to be hidden in one of these shelters. It is reported that an Austrian laborer who opened up one of these shelters lingered nearby while a couple of Soviet officers entered the shelter and made sketches of the interior.
4. The following day the same Soviet officer instructed the Baden magistrate to employ an unspecified number of Austrian laborers to repair several of the shelter interiors which apparently have deteriorated since the fall of 1945 when the shelters were sealed by a magistrate's order.*

25X1X **Comment:** Most of the shelters in this area are located in rock formations and can accommodate from 800 to 1,200 persons. There seems to be little doubt that the Soviets are carrying out this survey to determine what facilities are available for air raid shelters.

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